

HOUSE RESOLUTION 404

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to designate May 15, 2004, as "National Peace Officers' Memorial Day" in Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of such laws has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals; these individuals, known as law enforcement officers, daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, May 15 of each year, as established by the United States Congress in 1962 and signed into law by President John F. Kennedy of that year, is designated as National Peace Officers' Memorial Day, which is observed in conjunction with National Police Week; and

WHEREAS, the first National Peace Officers' Memorial Day Service was held in Washington, D.C., on May 15, 1982, while the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial was dedicated in our nation's capital on October 15, 1991; and

WHEREAS, the 103rd Congress amended the law in 1994 to direct that the U.S. Flag be lowered to half-staff on National Peace Officers' Memorial Day; the amendment was signed into law by President Bill Clinton; and

WHEREAS, since the first recorded police death in 1792, there have been more than 16,500 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, 1,658 law enforcement officers have given their lives in the line of duty during the last 10 years, an average of one death every 57 hours, or 167 deaths per year; 145 police officers were killed in 2003; and

WHEREAS, the deadliest day in law enforcement history was September 11, 2001, when 72 officers were killed while responding to the terrorist attacks on America; and

WHEREAS, on average, more than 58,066 law enforcement officers are assaulted each year, resulting in some 16,494 injuries; and

WHEREAS, engraved on the Memorial Wall in Washington are the names of 873 federal officers, 445 correctional officers, and 44 military law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty, in addition to the thousands of local law enforcement officers who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the City of Murfreesboro has traditionally joined the United States in remembering and honoring National Peace Officers' Memorial Day; the Murfreesboro Police Department will be holding a flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremony on May 12, 2004; in remembrance of all officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the communities they protect, the Murfreesboro Police Department asks that on this significant day citizens fly their American Flags at half-mast and that motorists turn their headlights on low beam; and

WHEREAS, Chief Glenn Chrisman of the Murfreesboro Police Department has stated: "Law enforcement officers are the front line of our domestic homeland security effort every day, dedicating themselves to the service of others, often at great personal sacrifice."; and

WHEREAS, numerous citizens of the Murfreesboro community have placed blue ribbons on their car antennas as part of the Murfreesboro Police Department's Blue Ribbon Campaign; these ribbons are symbols of support and remembrance for those officers who gave their lives while performing their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Murfreesboro Police Department has lost two of its officers since the Department was created; on December 16, 1946, Officer Herbert McClanahan was shot and killed in the line of duty; Joseph "Butch" Tomlinson, Jr. was killed in a tragic traffic accident while on duty on October 28, 1999; these officers heroically gave their lives while protecting the citizens of Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, there were more than 1.4 million violent crimes committed in the United States, an average of 160 every hour; however, the annual number of violent crimes has declined by 35% since peaking in 1993 at 4 million; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are the first line of defense between criminals and law-abiding citizens, and they must often make life and death decisions in an instant; they are

trained not only to enforce the law but to do so without prejudice or malice, while using good judgment and discretion, and with the highest regard for the constitutional rights of all people; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers must possess a general knowledge of medicine and psychology, as well as courage, courtesy, respect, and self-restraint; they can never allow their personal feelings to influence their decisions; and

WHEREAS, officers recognize that the badge is a symbol of public trust, and they must be forever mindful of the trust placed in them; they must strive to earn that trust, even in the face of adversity; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that those officers who have dedicated their lives to the service of humanity through law enforcement, and those officers who have given their lives in this noble cause, be recognized and remembered for the accomplishment of their high purposes; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is proud to join forces with the United States Congress, the City of Murfreesboro, the Murfreesboro Police Department, and all concerned citizens throughout Tennessee and the United States to observe "National Peace Officers' Memorial Day"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby designate May 15, 2004, as "National Peace Officers' Memorial Day" in Murfreesboro.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all citizens to take this opportunity to honor and remember those courageous law enforcement officers who gave their lives while protecting the communities in which they worked and lived.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.